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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,195	12/03/2001	Chris H. Senanayake	4821-409-999	4449
20582	7590	01/19/2007		
JONES DAY 51 Louisiana Avenue N.W. Washington, DC 20001-2113			EXAMINER KUMAR, SHAILENDRA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1621	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/19/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/998,195	Applicant(s) SENANAYAKE ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAIENDRA -. KUMAR	Art Unit 1621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 74-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 74-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/14/06 has been entered.

Claims 2-6 and 74-78 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7-8 and 32-43 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 2-6 and 74-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeffery et al(J. Chem. Soc., Perk trans, 1996).

Instant claims are directed to hydroxylated derivative of sibutramine, which are stereoisomers. Claims 2 and 74 are directed to stereomerically pure derivative and composition, when R1 and R2 are both hydrogen.

Jeffery et al teaches stereoisomers of hydroxylated derivative of sibutramine, similar to claimed herein. See for example, compound 5a, on page 2583, last compound in column 1, on page 2587, and last compound in column 1, on page 2588, wherein it is

expressly teaching the stereoisomers of the derivatives. The difference between the reference and herein claimed compounds and composition is that the reference has not made every derivative that is claimed.

It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Jeffery et al and obtain other derivatives, as the other derivatives are no more than the positional isomers, with the reasonable expectation of achieving a successful composition, absent evidence to the contrary. Note that positional isomers are prima facie obvious. In re Norris (CCPA 1950) 179 F2d 970, 84 USPQ 458.

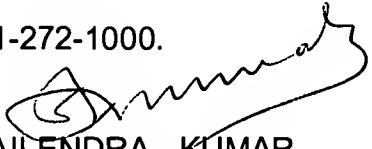
Applicants' arguments were fully considered and were not found convincing. Applicants allege that Jeffery fails to teach claimed compounds. The examiner disagrees. Compound 5a and other compounds cited supra are same compounds as claimed in herein. Applicants further argue that the reference does not teach stereomerically pure compound. The examiner disagrees. See compound 5a, on page 2583, last compound in column 1, on page 2587 and last compound in column 1, on page 2588. Furthermore, applicants are not claiming any specific stereoisomers or even the purity is not specified. Inasmuch as the reference is teaching stereoisomeric compound, claims are rendered prima facie obvious. Applicants further allege that there is no motivation to make the stereoisomers from the Jeffery reference. Note, page 2587, column 2, the reference has made stereoisomeric compounds.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHAIENDRA - KUMAR whose telephone number is (571)272-0640. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00-5:30, Alt Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on (571)272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



SHAIENDRA - KUMAR
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1621

S.Kumar
1/9/07